

Clean Copy of Amended Claims

24 (amended). An isolated protein of the TGF- β family which has mitogenic and/or differentiation-inductive activity and is coded by a DNA molecule selected from the group consisting of

(a) a DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in the SEQ ID No:1, or the following fragments: nucleotides 128-1183, nucleotides 836-1183, nucleotides 128-835, and nucleotides 866-1183;

(b) a DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in the SEQ ID No:3, or the following fragments: nucleotides 131-1186, nucleotides 839-1186, nucleotides 131-838, and nucleotides 869-1186;

(c) a DNA molecule encoding the amino acid sequence encoded by (a) or (b); and

(d) a DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes with one of the DNA molecules from (a) and (b) under stringent hybridization conditions in 6x SSC at 62-66° C followed by one hour wash with 0.6x SSC and 0.1% SDS at 62-66° C and which encodes a protein comprising an amino acid sequence containing seven conserved cysteine residues.

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25 (amended). The protein according to claim 24, wherein said protein has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2; SEQ ID NO:4; a part of SEQ ID NO:2 corresponding to the mature protein which starts with one of amino acids 217-240; a part of SEQ ID NO:4 corresponding to the mature protein which starts with one of amino acids 217-240; and sequences containing conservative substitutions of the amino acids shown in SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4 or the said parts thereof.

26 (amended). A heterodimeric protein comprising a monomer of the protein of claim 24 and a monomer of another protein from the TGF- β family.

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29 (new). The protein according to claim 24, wherein said protein has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, the part of SEQ ID NO:2 corresponding to the mature protein which includes at least the region of the seven cysteine residues, the part of SEQ ID NO:4 corresponding to the mature protein which includes at least the region of the seven cysteine residues and sequences containing conservative substitutions of the amino acids shown in SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4 or the mature parts thereof.

30 (new). The heterodimeric protein of claim 26, wherein the other member of the TGF- β family is activin/inhibin or a BMP protein.

31 (new). A homodimeric protein comprising two monomers of the protein of claim 24.

32 (new). A monomeric protein comprising the protein of claim 24.

33 (new). A pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein of claim 31 and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or auxiliary substances, diluents or fillers.

34 (new). A pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein of claim 32 and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or auxiliary substances, diluents or fillers.
